

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04644 091529Z  
ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSCE-00  
SP-02 L-01 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 PM-06 NEA-07 /048 W  
-----034033 091547Z /45

P 091529Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5374  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
HQUSAF WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04644

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, BE, LY  
SUBJECT: OVERHAUL OF LIBYAN C-130S BY SABENA

REF: BRUSSELS 4521

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHEF DE CABINET, ALFRED CAHEN, CALLED DCM OLSEN MORNING, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, TO EXPRESS HIGH-LEVEL BELGIAN GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN RECEIVING USG PERMISSION FOR SABENA TO PERFORM OVERHAUL WORK ON LIBYAN C-130S. CAHEN INFORMED DCM THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT "VIGOROUSLY ENDORSED" THE SABENA REQUEST REPORTED REFTEL.

2. CAHEN WAS TOLD THAT THE USG IS AWARE OF SABENA'S INTEREST IN OVERHAULING LIBYAN C-130S AND THAT GUIDANCE HAD BEEN REQUESTED FROM WASHINGTON. SO FAR NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO THE SABENA REQUEST TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON MARCH 8. DCM PROMISED TO REPORT THE HIGH-LEVEL GOB FOLLOW-UP TO WASHINGTON.

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3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME HOUR WE WERE READ A CABLE ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THE CABLE WHICH WAS SENT AT 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, REPORTED THE CAHEN-OLSEN

CONVERSATION (I.E. APPROXIMATELY 14 HOURS BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE) WITH THE COMMENT THAT OLSEN HAD EXPRESSED EMBASSY SUPPORT FOR THE SABENA REQUEST. WE WERE FURTHER TOLD THAT USG PERMISSION FOR SABENA TO PERFORM THIS OVERHAUL WOULD MEAN APPROXIMATELY 120 MILLION BF PER YEAR FOR SABENA.

4. COMMENT: WE REPORT IN FULL THE CHRONOLOGY OF OUR MOST RECENT CONTACTS WITH THE BELGIANS ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THE BELGIAN EMBASSY WILL PROBABLY BE APPROACHING VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE USG ON THE BASIS OF PARTIALLY INCORRECT INFORMATION AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF THIS EMBASSY. THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DOES STRONGLY SUPPORT THE SABENA REQUEST. END COMMENT  
CHAMBERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014